

20. NEW RECORDS OF TWO TACHINID PARASITES FROM *EUPROCTIS LUNATA* WALKER

The castor hairy caterpillar, *Euproctis lunata* Walker (Lepidoptera : Lymantriidae) is the most serious pest of castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) in India. The caterpillars are voracious feeders on the leaf and leave behind only the veins. While studying the biology of this insect at Ludhiana in 1977 some larvae collected from the field were found to be parasitized. Rearing of such larvae led to the emergence of two tachinid parasites. The specimens of these parasites sent to Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London have been identified as *Carcelia corvinoides* (Wulp.) and *Exorista larvarum* (L.). Collective parasitization of the larvae was 10-15% during July-August, thereafter no larvae was found to be parasitised. However, both the species were again recorded

parasitizing the larvae in the same season during 1978.

Two braconid parasites, *Apanteles colemani* Viereck and *A. euproctisiphagus* Muzaffar parasitise the larvae of this insect in the field (Bhatnagar 1948, Pandey 1967). Record of *Carcelia corvinoides* (Wulp.) and *Exorista larvarum* (L.) on the larvae of *Euproctis lunata* Walker is a first report from India.

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REFERENCES

- BHATNAGAR, S. P. (1948) : Studies on *Apanteles* Forester (Vipionidae : Parasitic Hymenoptera) from India. *Indian. J. Ent.* **10** : 133-203.
- PANDEY, S. N. (1967) : New record of a braconid parasite, *Apanteles colemani* Viereck from the larvae of *Euproctis lunata* Wlk. *Curr. Sci.* **36** : 498.

21. TWO CASES OF ORB WEB CONSTRUCTION BY ARANEUS

(With nine text-figures)

Recently I was able to watch a small garden spider making its orb-web. The spider was a young ash coloured *Araneus* measuring about 4 mm. The site of construction was between the extremities of two wooden rafters (45 cm apart) projecting from the outer wall of a garden house. These rafter ends, about 2 m

above the ground level, were connected by a longitudinal purlin that supported an asbestos sheet above.

The spider, female, which concealed herself all day long at one of the rafter ends turned active by sunset (about 6 p.m.). By touching at point (a) with the hind end of her abdomen